

Arizona School for the Deaf

A place for a deaf child to grow

A Special Year for ASDB

Arizona Schools for the Deaf and the Blind was founded in 1912 and our first school building was located at Park Ave and 2nd Street. The building does not exist any more, but the school has a 100 years worth of history starting at the place.



A Note from the Principal's Office

As we reach the midpoint of our school year and begin a new calendar year, joy and achievement bloom and grow at our very extraordinary school. I want to wish you and your family a beautiful holiday, and take a moment to mention only a few of the many happenings at our school.

Teachers and staff at Arizona School for the Deaf dedicate their time to ASDB, creating unsurpassed education for your child. They not only developed staggering lessons and activities in the classroom but also had exciting and enlightening trips and activities outside of the classroom. There are more exciting and educational trips and activities coming during the spring of 2012.

The year of 2012 is a special one for Arizona Schools for the Deaf and the Blind. Our school will celebrate its 100th Anniversary. ASDB has grown over the past 100 years and turned into a fine institute that serves about 2,500 students statewide. In addition to ASDB campus, we also have a campus in Phoenix, PDSD and also a Regional program in every corner of the state, known as the COOP.

Spring 2012

Jan 10 th	100 th Anniv. Kick-Off
Jan. 19 st	Stories that Soar
Feb 21 rd	Frontier Day
Feb 24 rd	Science Fair
Mar 22 st	Open House & Cultural Arts Festival
April 20 th	Berg & Seeger Track
TBA	ASDB Carnival
May 24 th	Graduation Ceremony



The secret to the deaf child's academic, social, & emotional development is full communication and language access, and our school offers the access.

Happy 100th Anniversary to Our Dear ASDB!

Ms. Maureen Mazza (High School Supervising Teacher)

Dear ASD HS Students, Parents and Families ~

As a Supervising Teacher for ASD HS, this semester flew by like a flash! The HS students have accomplished so much especially in their (academic, applied, functional and life skills) courses. They have been developing their academic, language, and social skills, in addition to character. All of this with the HS teachers' energetic encouragement to have them express and communicate their independent thinking. This guides them to enhance their knowledge of concepts at school, home and the community. "Knowledge Is Power." Please feel free to contact the ASD HS teachers, or myself, anytime. Wishing you all a joyous holiday season!

We look forward to working with all of you next semester, starting a special year of our school; a celebration of our 100th anniversary, 1912 – 2012.



ASDB's 100th Anniversary Kick- Off

At 10:30 am on January 10th, ASDB students and staff will have a rally at U of Arizona Mall. We will have speakers making some comments about our school's history. After the ceremony, we will march back to ASDB starting at about noon. For any of you who are interested, you are more than welcome to join us!



A High School Student at Arizona School for the Deaf named Daniel Ortega designed the logo for our 100th Anniversary.

100th Anniversary Yearbook

This year is a special year for the yearbook. Since we are celebrating 100th anniversary beginning January 2012, our theme for the yearbook is 100 years. This special edition yearbook will contain pictures from both the current school year and past school years. Our wonderful high school students are working around the clock to make this yearbook a special one. The cost of each yearbook is \$35. Please contact janis.cripps@asdb.az.gov if you would like to purchase a yearbook or two.

Read to Succeed

Julie Aguirre – High School English Teacher

Students do not only have writing and literature class in High School but also a Reading Lab. Reading Lab provides structured activities and strategies to help student prevail as a



"Saw a student go from a reluctant reader to a reading machine"

For several recent years a select group of ASD High School students have participated in Reading Lab. This is the first year that all ASD HS students have been Reading Lab participants. **What is Reading Lab?** Reading Lab is an extra period during the day where students are given time to read books of their choice. **What are the goals of Reading Lab?** To motivate students to read more and to see students reading skills increase. **How do we motivate students to read more?** Students can earn a quarterly reward trip for meeting their reading goals. First quarter each student that met their reading goal attended an on-campus day of fun starting with Games2U activities on and near the ASDB football field. As the day heated up students moved inside for pizza, cake and movies. This quarter the top 20 students who exceed their reading goal will be treated to a day of paintball on Thursday, December 23. All other students who meet their reading goal will have the option of movies or manicures on-campus. **Is Reading Lab fair? What if a student doesn't read well?** All students are given quarterly reading goals through AR (Accelerated Reader). AR is an award-winning nationwide program that keeps track of student reading comprehension data based on comprehension tests on books of a student's choosing. Reading goals are set for each student based on a formula AR has researched, established and tested. Students must meet their personal individualized reading goals. When a student meets their reading goal = 100%. One ASD HS sophomore told me, another reading teacher and supervising teacher Maureen Mazza, "I cannot reach my reading goal this quarter. It is too hard." Now his name is on the list for paintball! Do you know who this student is? **Does Reading Lab help students increase their reading skill?** YES! ASDB Library circulation numbers show that over the years of ASD HS using

AR and Reading Lab that more and more books are being checked out to ASD HS students. Teachers have their favorite anecdotal story about seeing a student go from a reluctant reader to a "reading machine." Shellie Shipley recently shared at a Reading Lab Rah-Rah Friday; "I have to tell the student to PLEASE STOP READING during my lecture." In my Reading Lab class two students are sharing graphic novels aka comic books that they are finding in ASDB Library. Two students are now "famous" in ASD HS for taking 2-3 AR reading comprehension tests per day. In addition to the feel-good anecdotes we also have AR data. Students who have the extra daily reading lab time show improvement in reading lab scores. Students increase their reading level e.g. start the year as a 3rd grade reader and end the year as a 4th grade reader. Students increase the complexity of books they are reading e.g. start the year with picture books and end the year with chapter books OR start the year with simple chapter books and end the year with more complex chapter books. Students increase their reading comprehension skills e.g. students have a reading comprehension rate last year of 70% and this year have an average of 90%. **What do teachers do during Reading Lab?** Teachers have an AR book to read silently during Reading Lab. Of course they are also available to help students with their reading protocol (ASD HS's homegrown research based checklist to assist students in improving reading comprehension) or to clarify a new vocabulary word or to explain a complex sentence or to enter passwords for students to access computerized comprehension quizzes. Teachers also may take comprehension tests on the books they are reading. **QUESTIONS TO ASK AN ASD HS STUDENT:**

1. What are you reading?
2. Why did you choose that book?
3. What level is the book?
4. How close are you to meeting your quarterly reading goal?

Agriculture Education Program at ASDB

Richard Layton (Agri-Ed Teacher)

ASDB is now the site of the first ever Agriculture Education program offered at a Deaf/Blind school west of the Mississippi River. Currently there are two other residential schools east of the Mississippi river, Kentucky and West Virginia (oral) but ASDB is the first to employ a Deaf teacher with a degree in Agriculture Education. Mr. Richard Layton comes to ASDB after graduating (2011) from University of Arizona's College of Agriculture Life Science with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Agriculture Education and thirty plus (30+) years of experience in the industry. Without any confirmation, ASDB appears to be the first to also offer this program to Blind students.

The foundation of the program will revolve around a plant system curriculum that will involve food safety, nutrition, plant life, business management, marketing, and facility management. Besides plants, our students will have an opportunity to learn the basics of residential electrical, plumbing, irrigation, mechanics, welding, construction and animal production. Make no mistake about the title of the program, Agriculture is the foundation of the entire program but the skills students learn from this course will be applicable towards all careers and higher education. It is our hope to establish an FFA (Future Farmers of America) chapter that will allow us to offer students more options in leadership, business and scholarship opportunities. One of the goals we have will involve students competing at district, state and national events to showcase their skills and knowledge. Students will also have an opportunity to participate in community service projects as well as interact with the community in a business setting to sell/showcase some of the projects they accomplished during the school year.

We will begin by offering two Deaf classes of Applied Biological Systems in January and then expand the courses to both Blind students and Deaf students in the fall of 2012. Courses will be modified to offer the best opportunities for both Blind and Deaf students, some classes may overlap with other core classes but students can still earn their Biology/Science credit(s) through the Ag Ed program. If you wish to learn more about our new exciting program, please feel free to contact Mr. Richard Layton at (520)762.7902, email at Richard.Layton@asdb.az.gov or pay a visit to our campus and see what new and exciting things are being done here at ASDB/Tucson.



Optimist Club Communication Contest

Pueblo Optimist Club, Tucson Optimist Club and South Western Deaf Optimist Club provide this wonderful opportunity for our Deaf high school students.

This contest is designed to offer students the opportunity to present their thoughts in a public form. This experience helps students to develop skills and confidence to present in American Sign Language (ASL) to a larger audience.

We will have our local Communication Contest on Thursday, January 12th at ASDB-Tucson cafeteria from 6pm – 8pm. Local high school Deaf students from ASD will give 4-5 minutes speeches on the topic "How My Optimism Helps Me Overcome Obstacles." The top three winners will go to Arizona Golf resort in Mesa and compete other schools on Saturday, January 21st, 2012 to receive scholarships: 1st place: \$2,500, 2nd place: \$1,000 and 3rd place: \$500.

The last two years ASD students have swept the awards against two other schools!!! We hope ASD will win all three places again this year. We should continue to be proud of our ASDB-Tucson students.



ASD Academic Bowl

Luis Valles (Math Teacher)

The 2011-2012 Western Academic Bowl league season kicked off on December 1, 2011 with a tied match against the California School of the Deaf in Fremont. The final score was 41-41 as the Arizona School for the Deaf (ASD) team was without two key players.

ASD will compete against the brightest students from California School of the Deaf in Riverside, Colorado School for the Deaf, Phoenix Day School for the Deaf, New Mexico School of the Deaf, Texas School for the Deaf, and University High School in California. League matches span until March 2012 in order to prepare our Academic Bowl teams to be ready for the National Academic Bowl competition in Gallaudet University at Washington, D.C. on April 12, 2012. The National Academic Bowl competition will be where we showcase our brightest ASD students in our quest to show America that education is happening at ASD.

The Shop

Kerry Hodgkinson & Jared Meyerowitz (Functioned Academic)

"The Shop" is a newly establish work studies program for high school life skills students. It is based out of the CTE building and centers on making t-shirts and window vinyl. The students have been hard at work learning the process of cutting and designing vinyl.

It begins with an idea such as a drawing or a picture that is then converted to a clean, printable, vector computer file. The file is then taken into The Shop and printed on our color printer or cut in a vinyl image. The image or transfer is then applied to a shirt using a heat press. The students are becoming skilled in all aspects of the process, ordering, design, computer graphics, printing, vinyl cutting and heat pressing. It has been amazing to watch their progress. Currently the students are working on the 100 Anniversary Celebration shirts for ASDB.

The Shop has been working on creating community connections with local businesses to ensure students are able to experience a "real" working environment. They are also beginning to recognize how the vinyl process works at businesses, on signs and other shirts. Kerry and Jerry are amazed and proud of their progress this semester and look forward to future projects.

Welcome to the World of Life Skills

Dan McAlees (Life Skills Teacher)

The students are very busy this semester. They are doing a lot of reading for the Accelerated Reader (AR) program. They have already earned one reward day and well on their way to earning another. As part of the AR program DVD's are being made of them reading their stories. They will be bringing these home to share with you so you will be able to read their AR books with them and together watch the DVD of them reading as you sign with them.

The students have done science projects ranging from gardening (our plants did not survive the last freeze) to health related subjects. Along with this they are working off campus at Petco (an animal store). They are learning to communicate with their hearing co-workers and a variety of job skills as they do work ranging from dusting to cleaning animal cages. With their paychecks they are developing their budget skills as they save for various activities.

We are looking forward to next semester and wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



A Trip to Washington, D.C.

HS Close Up Program

Shellie Shipley (Govt. Teacher)

Juniors and seniors have received their informational letters regarding the Washington DC Close Up trip this spring! Dan McAlees and Shellie Shipley will be accompanying a small group of students to our nation's capital to see the government in action. There they will be offered the opportunity to interact with the individuals, practices, and historical places that make the District of Columbia so fascinating.



Elementary & Middle School

Elementary and Middle Schools has had a fantastic 1st semester. We've been busy with exciting events, field trips and guest speakers almost each month.

August 30th we were able to send the whole school to the King Tut exhibit. All the students were fascinated with the artifacts and stories related to the Egyptian era. This experience led into an abundance of activities related to their academic learning and language development. Students enjoyed their time and we hope they shared their experiences with you.

September 17th was our Homecoming. We had spirit week where we all dressed up with different outfits each day. Also, following our ASDB tradition, our classes each decorated their "Home Room" doors. Our Elementary School created a team door theme and the entire department won an Ice Cream party!! They were so proud and happy to get some Ice Cream after lunch.

October 12th we had a K9 Law Enforcement guest speaker come and talk with us about what the K9 law enforcement dogs do. We had a short demonstration from the dog and the dog's owner, and the law enforcement officer. The students learned about how the dogs are trained and what their specific jobs are. It was great to see the students' reactions.



Little People Camping Out

3rd, 4th, 5th graders

October 25-26 Linda Murashige's and Lana Pascall's classes were able to go CAMPING. We were able to incorporate many Science discovery lessons related to plants and animals. We learned about all kinds of trees and what types of animals live in the area of Moderro Canyon. We had math lessons related to the environment at the campground. Also there were discovery lessons for the students to figure out on their own as a team. Linda and Lana made each part of the trip a learning experience for their young students. Before they left, they were able to take advantage of a nice hike.

Dorm LifeStyle

Daily Dorm Doings



The boys in Apache just finished their football season, and the girls just finished their volleyball season. They did a great

job; they never gave up and always returned to the dorms in high spirits! Now we are starting our basketball season, we have several basketball players in our dorms. We are so proud of them for winning the Roadrunner Classic championship on December 10th! We are looking forward to attending their games and cheering them on!

Of course, dorm days and nights aren't ALL fun and games. The students of Apache and Navajo residence halls are expected to keep their "homes away from home" neat, clean and tidy. Laundry, dishes and vacuuming are part of life. Naturally, the kiddos always tackle their responsibilities with winning attitudes. Thanks, guys and girls!

This year we have had the joy of three new elementary students! Their names are Hilaire, Julian, and Amare! We are thrilled to have them in our dorms! We are sad to say "goodbye" to student Evelyn who will be moving at the end of this semester, she will be greatly missed around here! We also have a new Teaching Parent, Reut, who was a Live-In staff last year; a new Live-In, Shalon who is a former ASDB student; and finally, our department has a new Dean, Vivienne. Welcome to our new staff!

Holiday Fun in the Residence Program!

Here in the Residence Halls, we love to celebrate different holidays and events! Our staff and kids have a lot of fun planning each event, we want to share what we've been up to with you!

Our Halloween party on October 26th was AWESOME!!! Everyone dressed up and they all looked great, some were scary and some were funny. There was a lot of food and fun. There were activities for all of the kids to play, and then we all played volleyball, too. Some of us also went to Slaughter House during the week. It was so fun; everyone got really scared!!!

On November 17th we all went to Golden Corral for Thanksgiving dinner. We had a great time together. While we ate, we had a poster paper on a table and each of us took turns writing what we are thankful for this year. The students wrote that they are thankful for their family, food, friends, and their toys. Everyone had a wonderful time eating and talking. There was a chocolate fountain and cotton candy machine everyone was excited and had fun playing with and eating their cotton candy treats!



Soon we will have our Holiday party on December 20th. All of our staff will be making delicious dishes such as turkey, ham, marshmallow sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, pies and much more! Our staff Brittany Shepherd will make her famous Cherry Yum Yum dessert; we can't wait to eat it all! Our dorms have been decorated, and all of our students have been working on their wish lists. We are all ready to celebrate! Wishing you all a wonderful and magical Holiday Season!

Work Education Program

Working at Safeway

Clarice West (Applied Academic Teacher)

Our amazing students in Ms. West's class are working at Safeway four times a week. The students are doing a wonderful job such as stocking a variety of items up on the shelves, in the freezer section, and at the produce area.

They are learning how to communicate with their co-workers and sometimes with the customers too when they need their help. It is an ideal opportunity for them to build their work skills out in the community, which would not happen in classroom. There are several different jobs within the store and the students get to explore different areas, and expand their skills for their future potential jobs.

After observing the students at work, lessons would be developed for students in the classroom to provide support and help them grow professionally.

Also, the experience increases their sense of self-confidence interacting with the public in the community. Here are students' comments about their job. Christopher Eredics says, "I like working at Safeway because it is fun". Layton Daw said, "I like to help people when they need to reach items off from the higher shelf".

They are always excited about going to work and interacting with the public. They look forward to continuing to work at Safeway next semester.

A Message from our Site Trainers

Greetings from Work Education! The students participating in the program are finishing their 2nd quarter of work at various locations. Our junior class students have been working on campus in copy service, athletics office, cafeteria, the library and with teachers in the classroom. Some of our off campus locations are: Pizza Hut, Safeway, Albertsons, Petco, Wildlife Café and KZLZ radio station. The enclave group has been working at the Sunflower Market, Safeway and Peter Piper Pizza. We provide authentic hands-on opportunities in different career fields while gaining experience in universal work values such as punctuality, flexibility, responsibility and the internal rewards of pride in a job well done. We would like to congratulate Brendan Hoskie, Chris Escarrega, Aurora Begay and Amber Babcock for being selected student of the month from September to December.



Derrick Mountain is mixing water with a cleaning solution to prep for cleaning the equipment in OT/PT.

Career After ASDB?

Mr. Travis Clevenger (HS Counselor)

We had Gallaudet University and Rochester Institute of Technology recruiters visit and give our students a workshop on their University and what they have to offer for our students after they graduate. Students will have more opportunities to explore all kinds of Opportunity.

It is very important and never too early to discuss with your child about their future plans after they graduate. It can be anything from jobs, vocational programs, community colleges, or any colleges. If you learn some more about a specific area, please feel free to contact me.



Gallaudet University leads the world in undergraduate liberal arts education, career development, and outstanding graduate programs for deaf, hard of hearing. The school is located in the District of Columbia, Washington DC.

The ASDB Science Fair

When: Friday, February 24, 2012

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. (Judging begins at 8:30. Results are announced at 11:15.)

Where: Outside the Food Service Building.

Who: Projects will be created by ASDB students and judged by local scientists from Raytheon and the greater Tucson community.

Our Science Fair is about

- a. Science inquiry in which learning expands our students' knowledge of the universe and prepares them for continuing education and careers in science, engineering, and technology.
- b. Developing student self-esteem and presentation skills.
- c. Recognition of the school's ability to be competitive.

Winning projects will compete at the Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering Fair at the Tucson Convention Center.

You're invited! Please come help us celebrate student achievement!

For more information, please contact:

Suzanne Smith, Science Committee Chairperson

suzanne.smith@asdb.az.gov